The volume is well printed by the Nature Publishing Company, and very well illustrated, in part with original photographs.

This book can be highly commended for its honesty and directness of purpose. Its author stands on his own feet and neither poses nor gushes, and his work is worthy of its purpose. D. S. J.

ZOÖLOGY.

Artificial Production of Rhythmic Muscle Contractions. — Professor Loeb[1] has pointed out that certain solutions containing ions of sodium, chlorine, lithium, bromine, iodine, etc., may cause rhythmical contractions in muscle, and that solutions containing certain other ions, calcium, potassium, magnesium, barium, strontium, etc., check such contractions. It is supposed that the rhythmic contractions are the result of the combination of the particular ions with the muscle. The rhythmic action of the heart may be a natural example of this kind of action. G. H. P.

Evermann and Marsh on Fishes of Puerto Rico. — In the *Report of the United States Fish Commission* for 1899, Dr. Barton W. Evermann and Willard C. Marsh give an account of new species discovered by them in the late cruise of the *Fish Hawk* about the island of Puerto Rico under Dr. Evermann's direction. An elaborate account of these important investigations is in preparation. The present paper gives a preliminary account of three new genera of Blenniidæ — Gillias, allied to Tripterygion; Auchenistius, a Blenny, allied to Auchenopterus; and Coralliozetus, allied to Ophioblennius — and of twenty new species belonging to different families. These are: *Lycodontis jordani*, *Stolephorus gilberti*, *Stolephorus garmani*, *Prionodes baldwini*, *Calamus kendalli*, *Doratonotus decoris*, *Sicydium caguitæ*, *Gobius bayamonensis*, *Bollmannia boqueronensis*, *Microgobius meeki*, *Gillias jordani*, *Malacoctenus culebræ*, *Malacoctenus moorei*, *Malacoctenus puertoricensis*, *Auchenistius stahli*, *Auchenopterus albicaudus*, *Auchenopterus rubescens*, *Auchenopterus cingulatus*, *Auchenopterus fajardo*, and *Coralliozetus cardonæ*. Most of these are small fishes of

[1] Loeb, J. Ueber Ionen welche rhythmische Zuckungen der Skelettmuskeln hervorrufen, *Festschrift zum 70. Geburtstage des Herrn Geheimrath Prof. Dr. A. Fick*, pp. 101–119. 1899.